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SIPDIS

HHS FOR CDC

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [CASC](#) [AMED](#) [KFLU](#) [ETRD](#) [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [EC](#) [PGOV](#) [PO](#)
SUBJECT: PORTUGAL H1N1 UPDATE - DEC 17

REF: LISBON 579
LISBON 558
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¶1. Between December 7 and December 13 Portugal diagnosed 14,518 new cases with flu symptoms. One-hundred and thirty-three patients remain hospitalized, including twenty-five in intensive care. There have been forty-six confirmed H1N1 fatalities to date. The majority of the fatalities were males averaging 45.5 years old with other serious preexisting medical conditions.

¶2. One month into the vaccination campaign Portuguese health authorities confirmed that 115,000 Portuguese have been vaccinated (out of a population of 11 million), including only 32 percent of doctors, 18 percent of nurses and 12 percent of other health professionals. Dr. Filipe Froes, a respected pulmonologist, told us that the Portuguese government goal to vaccinate 30 percent of the population will not be achieved due to public reluctance to be immunized.

¶3. The Portugal National Authority of Medicines and Health Products has received 90 notifications of adverse reactions to the H1N1 vaccine, of which 36 were considered serious. The most commonly reported reactions were muscle and joint pain and fever, in adults 31-40 years old.

¶4. Deputy Health Director Graga Freitas confirmed that Portugal has administered 240,000 doses of vaccine and is distributing another 71,000 doses.